ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER September 2016

Members should all have received a copy of the 2016-17 syllabus by mail. There will be spare copies available at the first meeting which will be on 22nd September and will take the form of the usual informal gathering when members are invited to bring items for sale or exchange. The tables always seem to be piled high with boxes of stamps and covers so come along in anticipation of some acquisitions. In the past, there has also been a display on the boards at our first meeting but this will take a different form this year. The committee is keen to encourage members to submit entries into the national competitions at Congress 2017 in Perth as there were some classes last year with no entrants and trophies which could not be awarded. To that end, they will arrange for some sheets to be displayed on the boards. These will be viewed and commented on as though they were competitive exhibits by Alex Walker and David Kindley who will point out what the judges may be looking for and offer advice to any potential entrants. The first meeting of the season will be followed by a visit from two eminent philatelists from south of the border, John Jackson and Mike Fulford, and then by a visit from the Falkirk society, in response to a visit to Falkirk last season by Alex Walker and Graham Searle on behalf of Aberdeen PS. Thanks and congratulations to Chrissie Jefferies, our Secretary, for all her hard work in putting the programme together.

Ian Kennaway is putting together a small thematic display based on the development of the pneumatic tyre, with the intention of submitting an entry into the Open Class at Congress 2017 and is seeking assistance from members in finding some appropriate items. This can be in the form of any spares under the following headings or alternatively advice where to seek any specific item. The items currently sought and for which he is prepared to cover any reasonable cost are as follows: (1) a Stonehaven cancellation preferably on piece within the period 1870-1900; (2) a slogan postmark from any country relating to the performance or safety of car tyres, e.g. 1960s UK 'Look after your tyres' or similar; (3) a stamp illustrating a racing car with an advert for 'Firestone' either on the car or in the background. Ian has prepared draft sheets and intends to display these at the opening night for critical comment.

We Remember Alfie Wilson who passed away in April and who was a member of the Society for many years. He collected China, Japan, New Zealand, Canada and Greenland and was a frequent bidder at Society auctions. He was packet Secretary for eight years and was a regular attender at the Friday morning group, Congress and the Dundee philatelic weekends.

We Remember Judith Thrower who passed away in April and was President of the Society in 2000-02. Judith collected the countries which other collectors did not, such as Mongolia and UAE, countries which she had personal hand experience of, cleverly drawing maps as part of her displays. She was a regular at Congress and Dundee philatelic weekends.

We Remember Albert Barron who passed away in July. He was a member of the Society for many years and frequently at meetings. He collected GB and other countries and was particularly interested in multiples on cover. He regularly traded philatelic items, notably covers, on line and at Society auctions and he attended the Dundee philatelic weekends.

Postal Auction 30 raised £600 for the Society. The next auction will be in March 2017 and the call for lots will be made in December 2016. Why not take the opportunity to dispose of items which are no longer at the centre of your collecting interests?

The Club packet: 127 books were circulated in the packet last season, with a sale value of £6015.31 and sales of £646.61 for the sixteen vendors, of whom seven were from our Society. Many thanks to all the participants. A new packet will start to circulate in September. The Secretary asks all members receiving the packet to take great care, as there are some high value items in the coming packet. If there are any members not presently on the circulation list and would like to receive the packet, please let the Packet

Secretary know as soon as possible – for contact details see the syllabus. The Packet is passed on by hand, not through the post.

Congratulations to Chad Neighbor who received the Society's annual Jupp Award at our last AGM. Also to Alex Walker who won the Open Competition at Congress in Perth last April with an entry entitled 'Don't you know there's a war on?' as well as Ken Bruce for a fine postcard display entitled 'A Royal Journey' at the same event.

The Centenary of the First World War is attracting some philatelic comment. The Caledonian Philatelic Society has published a book entitled 'Philatelic Witnesses of the Great War' under the editorship of Stewart Gardiner, drawing on the collections of members for illustrative material. There are some interesting sections entitled Views on Postcards, Internment Camps, Fund Raising for the War Effort, Patriotism and Propaganda, Far Flung places, etc.. If there is sufficient interest, no doubt the Librarian would consider acquiring a copy. An historical column in The Times recently described the postal operation at that time. The Expeditionary Force in France generated a vast amount of mail, as much as ten million letters a week by 1916, with letters taking three days to reach men in billets and four to reach soldiers in the trenches. Three special trains were run daily for the Army mails alone to the three cross-Channel routes. Then there was mail for troops in Egypt, Salonika, Mesopotamia, East Africa and elsewhere in the then colonial world. More than five million letters were sent home from the front each week. Several hundred women were employed at the mail base in London, sorting the mail. No wonder that we still see lots of censored mail and other postal items from that time in dealers' boxes.

Hot off the press . Promoting the Society! Alex Walker reports: Following a very helpful and friendly meeting in the City Library today we are able to report some progress. Modern Libraries are no longer bookshelves. As media centres they have space. Our discussion led to the following suggestions: 1. The Librarian is happy to assist with advertising and distribution of posters and publicity material from Central to individual branches. 2.If we submit PDF version of poster, or slideshow, they can display for us on Monitor Screens. 3. If we can source suitable frames (and they are also going to search) we can have free standing exhibitions in the Central Library and in any branch which has floor space. 4.The are willing to host any month long exhibition of several frames with a theme, and we have tentatively suggested a WWI centenary for 2018 (Sept- November). 5. Evening and or lunchtime talks from speakers, not necessarily philatelic, in conjunction with such a small exhibition might be considered. 6. The possibility of workshop sessions in the children's library was also raised by the Librarian . I can see a role for Chrissie the Clown.

Subscriptions

Members Subscriptions to the Society are due in September for the season 2016-17. The treasurer will receive subscriptions at the opening night, in cash or by cheque, and it would be helpful if the enclosed form could also accompany your payment. The form is also seeking your address if you have moved house in the last year; and your e-mail address, if you have one, or it has altered in the last year.

The subscriptions for the coming year are:- Town Members £12.00, and Country Members £6.00.

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Aberdeen Philatelic Society **Subscription Renewal – Season 2016-17**

I enclose my subscription of - Town Member £12.00.)
Country Member £6.00) *Delete as appropriate*

Name(*Print*)……... e-mail:…….…….

Address *(if changed*)……..……..

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Treasurer: - Graham Searle, Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory AB31 6PS.